

Application Number: 10/697,213
Response to Non-Final Office Action of May 12, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-44. (canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush, comprising:

a handle;

a head connected to said handle and having a first surface and a second surface; and

a mechanical vibratory device which causes the head to vibrate,

wherein said head comprises a first cleaning element extending from said first surface that is non-movable relative to the head, a second cleaning element extending from said first surface that is non-movable relative to the head, a plurality of third cleaning elements disposed between the first and second cleaning elements and being movable relative to the head, and a discontinuity in the form of an opening in the head directly opposite at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements to allow for movement of the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements relative to the head, wherein the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is spaced from the second surface in the direction of the first surface by the opening.

46. (canceled)

47. (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein at least one additional cleaning element is included in an area between the first or second and third cleaning elements.

48. (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein the third cleaning elements comprise movable wipers.

49. (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 48, wherein the movable wipers are mounted on a resilient membrane and rotate towards one another upon application of sufficient force on the toothbrush and away from each other upon release of that force.

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50.-76. (Canceled)

77. (previously presented) A toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein said mechanical vibratory device is located in the head or in a region adjacent to the head and operatively connected to an electric power source.

78. (Canceled)

79. (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein the discontinuity is on the second surface opposite the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements.

80 (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is movable toward at least one of said first and second cleaning elements.

81. (currently amended) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is movable toward each of said first and second cleaning elements.

82. (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, further comprising a fourth cleaning element disposed between said first cleaning element and at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements, said fourth cleaning element being mounted to and non-movable relative to said head at a location of said mount.

83 (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 82, wherein the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is movable toward at least one of said first and fourth cleaning elements.

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84. (previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 83, wherein the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is movable toward each of said first and fourth cleaning elements.

85. (currently amended) A toothbrush, comprising:

a head and a mechanical vibratory device which causes the head to vibrate;

wherein said head comprises a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, a first cleaning element extending from said first surface that is non-movable relative to the head, a second cleaning element extending from said first surface that is non-movable relative to the head, and a plurality of movable elastomeric wipers disposed between the first and second cleaning elements, each of the movable elastomeric wipers being movable relative to the cleaning head within a discontinuity in the form of an opening in the head directly opposite each movable elastomeric wiper, wherein the movable elastomeric wipers are spaced from the second surface in the direction of the first surface by the opening.

86. (currently amended) The toothbrush according to claim 85, wherein the first and second cleaning elements extend from at the first surface of the head, and the discontinuity is present on the second surface of the head opposite the first surface.

87. (currently amended) The toothbrush according to claim 85, wherein the first and second cleaning elements extend from at the first surface of the head, and the discontinuity is visible with reference to the second surface of the head opposite the first surface.